Nuclear power projects

1211. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to start two nuclear power projects in Gujarat and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have plans to start similar projects in Bihar and Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has accorded 'in principle' approval for settingup of 2x700 MWe indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) each at Rawatbhata in Rajasthan and Kakrapar in Gujarat during the Eleventh Plan.

(c) and (d) Government has also accorded in principle approval for development of Jaitapur site in Maharashtra for setting up of a nuclear power plant. No decision has been taken with respect to Nuclear Power Plant in Bihar.

Mining of titanium in Kerala

1212. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is large deposit of titanium in the coastal Kerala fit for commercial exploitation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a U.S. aircraft manufacturer had evinced interest in mining the titanium ore for making alloys used in the manufacture of aircrafts, which the State Government did not approve;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Russia has proposed to take up exploitation of titanium in Kerala; and

(f) if so, the Centre's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Many deposits of titanium have been identified along the coastal stretches of Kerala The important ones are at Chavara and its extension areas, Kayamkulam-Arattupuzha-Thrikkunnapuzha-Thottapally areas. .The total titanium resources of Kerala (Ilmenite, Leucoxene and Rutile) is estimated as 114.28 million tonnes.

(c) and (d) Boeing Corporation, a U.S. aircraftmanufacturer has expressed interest in entering into long term purchase arrangements for titanium from India.